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# Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
IO-13 HA-05 AF-10 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01
TRSE-00 /110 W
----------109283 171404Z /53
R 161744Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7066

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2755

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, UY, SF
SUBJECT: URUGUAYAN VISIT OF SOUTH AFRICAN FONMIN BOTHA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SOUTH AFRICAN FONMIN ROELOF FREDERICK BOTHA VISITED MONTEVIDEO AUGUST 10-12, REPORTEDLY TO DISCUSS COMMERCIAL MATTERS, TECHNOLOGY SALES AND TRANSFERS AND SOUTH ATLANTIC SECURITY ISSUES. HE MET WITH KEY GOU OFFICIALS INCLUDING: PRESIDENT APARICIO MENDEZ, THE THREE MILITARY COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF, VICE PRESIDENT HAMLET REYES AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE, MINDEF RAVENNA, ACTING FONMIN LUPINACCI (IN THE MINISTER'S ABSENCE) AND DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL BANK.

2. THE VISIT RECEIVED MODERATE, RESERVED PRESS COVERAGE IN ALL DAILIES. OF GREATEST PRESS INTEREST WHERE BOTHA'S STATEMENTS SUPPORTING A "SOUTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE" (A PET SCHEME OF URUGUAYAN NAVY CINC MARQUEZ), AND HIS CALLS FOR INCREASED TRADE AND INVESTMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. BOTHA'S RELATIVELY MILD PRESS STATEMENTS INCLUDED RITUAL DENIGRATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL OPINION, STRESSING THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT OF EACH COUNTRY TO RESPOND TO ITS OWN SPECIAL
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CIRCUMSTANCES, THEMES WHICH WERE VERY POPULAR AMONG HIS URUGUAYAN HOSTS. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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3. ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE HIGH LEVEL FONMIN SOURCE PARTICIPATING IN THE MEETINGS WITH BOTHA, BOTHA SPECIFICALLY

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TOLD GOU OFFICIALS THAT "VANCE AND OWEN HAD DECEIVED HIM" ABOUT THE WALVIS BAY ISSUE, BY INDICATING THAT THEY COULD OBTAIN SWAPO ACCEPTANCE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S RETAINING THE ENCLAVE WHEN, AS EVENTS SUBSEQUENTLY PROVED, THEY COULD NOT DELIVER ON SUCH A COMMITMENT.

4. FONMIN SOURCES HAVE STRESSED TO US THAT BOTHA'S OFFICIAL VISIT WAS NOT SOUGHT BY THE GOU BUT RATHER RESULTED FROM THE SOUTH AFRICANS INVITING THEMSELVES TO STOP BY EN ROUTE TO THE STROESSNER INAUGURATION. ALTHOUGH THE MINISTRY WAS OPPOSED TO THE VISIT, IT WAS IN NO POSITION TO CONFRONT URUGUAY'S MILITARY LEADERS WHO HIGHLY PRIZE THE SOUTH AFRICAN CONNECTION. HOWEVER, THE MINISTRY DID SUCCEED IN REDUCING THE VISIT FROM THE FOUR DAYS ORIGINALLY SOUGHT BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT TO ONLY TWO. MOREOVER, THE ACTING FONMIN REPORTEDLY MADE CLEAR TO HIS VISITOR THAT THE GOU CONTINUES TO AFFIRM URUGUAY'S HISTORICAL OPPOSITION TO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. NEWLY APPOINTED FONMIN FOLLE MARTINEZ AS CHIEF OF GOU DELEGATION TO THE POPE'S FUNERAL DEPARTED FOR ROME TWO HOURS AHEAD OF THE ARRIVAL OF HIS GUEST COUNTERPART, AND THEREBY AVOIDED COMPROMISING HIS POSITION WITH BLACK AFRICANS.
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# Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:**
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED
**Disposition Approved on Date:**
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014
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**Disposition History:** n/a
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